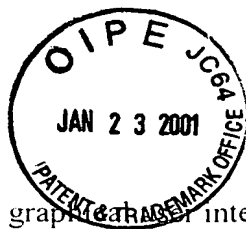# CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for producing a graphical user interface, the method comprising:

   storing a graphic file having at least one control object, each control object in a separate layer, and

   launching an application program to access the graphic file and to display a control element on the graphical user interface, the control element having at least one attribute dictated by one of the control objects.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the graphic file has a first control object in a layer dictating one attribute of the control element and a second control object in a separate layer dictating another attribute of the control element.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the first control object and the second control object share a common name attribute.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the layer of the first control object is grouped with the layer of the second control object.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the graphic file is editable and the at least one control object may be added, deleted or altered.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the control element is an edit control to manipulate a time-based stream of information.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute is an appearance, location or size.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the attribute is the element type, state, function or behavior in a particular environment.

1   9.   A computer system comprising:

2   a storage;

3   a display device; and

4   a processor for:

5   storing a graphic file having at least one control object, each
6   control object in a separate layer, and

7   launching an application program to access the graphic file and to
8   display a control element on the graphical user interface, the
9   control element having at least one attribute dictated by one of
10   the control objects.

11 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the graphic file has a first control object in a
12   layer dictating one attribute of the control element and a second control object in
13   a separate layer dictating another attribute of the control element.

14 11. The system of claim 10, wherein the first control object and the second control
15   object share a common name attribute.

16 12. The system of claim 10, wherein the layer of the first control object is grouped
17   with the layer of the second control object.

18 13. The system of claim 9, wherein the graphic file is editable and the at least one
19   control object may be added, deleted or altered.

20 14. The system of claim 9, wherein the control element is an edit control to
21   manipulate a time-based stream of information.

22 15. The system of claim 9, wherein the attribute is an appearance, location or size.

23 16. The system of claim 9, wherein the attribute is the element type, state, function
24   or behavior in a particular environment.

25 17. A system for producing a graphical user interface, comprising:

1   means for storing a graphic file having at least one control object, each

2   control object in a separate layer;

3   means for launching an application program to access the graphic file

4   and to display a control element on the graphical user interface, the

5   control element having at least one attribute dictated by one of the

6   control objects.

7   18.   The system of claim 17, wherein the graphic file has a first control object in a

8   layer dictating one attribute of the control element and a second control object in

9   a separate layer dictating another attribute of the control element.

10 19.   The system of claim 18, wherein the first control object and the second control

11   object share a common name attribute.

12 20.   The system of claim 18, wherein the layer of the first control object is grouped

13   with the layer of the second control object.

14 21.   The system of claim 17, wherein the graphic file is editable and the at least one

15   control object may be added, deleted or altered.

16 22.   The system of claim 17, where in the control element is an edit control to

17   manipulate a time-based stream of information.

18 23.   The system of claim 17, wherein the attribute is an appearance, location or size.

19 24.   The system of claim 17, wherein the attribute is the element type, state, function

20   or behavior in a particular environment.

21 25.   A computer readable medium having stored therein a plurality of sequences of

22   executable instructions, which, when executed by a computer system for

23   producing a graphical user interface, cause the processor to:

24   store a graphic file having at least one control object, each control object

25   in a separate layer;

1   launch an application program to access the graphic file and to display a

2   control element on the graphical user interface, the control element

3   having at least one attribute dictated by one of the control objects.

4   26.   The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the graphic file has a first

5   control object in a layer dictating one attribute of the control element and a

6   second control object in a separate layer dictating another attribute of the control

7   element.

8   27.   The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the first control

9   object and the second control object share a common name attribute.

10   28.   The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the layer of the first

11   control object is grouped with the layer of the second control object.

12   29.   The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the graphic file is editable

13   and the at least one control object may be added, deleted or altered.

14   30.   The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the control element is an

15   edit control to manipulate a time-based stream of information.

16   31.   The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the attribute is an

17   appearance, location or size.

18   32.   The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the attribute is the element

19   type, state, function or behavior in a particular environment.